



# Town of Colma

## FEBRUARY 2003

*A Community Information Publication*

### CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

*Diane McGrath, Assistant City Manager*

#### **Hillside Cultural Park & Community Center**

If you drive by the site on Hillside Boulevard, you will notice that there's a lot of construction activity. The museum building is expected to be ready for occupancy mid-to-late summer. The City Council, staff and architect are working hard to finalize the design of the new Town community center building. The Council approved the first phase of the Hillside Boulevard Beautification and Utility Undergrounding Project at the January meeting, and its construction is planned to coincide with the development of the Park.

#### **Mid-Year Budget Review**

At the January 14<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, staff presented a report on the financial status of the Town midway through the fiscal year. I am pleased to report that revenue and expenditure projections are on track and the Town is expecting to end the fiscal year with a positive fund balance. At this time it is unclear what impact, if any, the state's budget deficit will have on Colma's revenues, but the state's problems are expected to have a substantial effect on the counties, including San Mateo County.

#### **Enhanced Fire Service**

Negotiations between the Fire District and the Town to provide enhanced fire services through the formation of a joint powers authority are nearing completion and it is anticipated that the Fire JPA will be considered by the Council at the City Council meeting in February, scheduled for Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

This is a very busy year in Colma with so many exciting new projects in design or under construction. The City Council anticipates that each of these projects will greatly enhance the quality of life for Colma residents. If you have any comments or suggestions about how we can improve City services to you, please feel free to contact us.

### POLICE CHIEF'S CORNER

*Bruce Tognetti, Chief of Police*

This month I am highlighting Colma Police Department's longest serving officer, Sergeant **Ed Ruggiero**. Ed has 27 years of police experience, the last 24 with Colma PD. He has been a Sergeant since 1980, currently supervises the Day Watch, and was the Department's only Range Master for over 20 years. The past couple of years, Ed has done an outstanding job coordinating Colma PD's recruitment program. Ed enjoys spending his free time with his wife, Anna, of 18 years, their 8-year-old daughter, and 1-1/2 year old son.

The majority of Sterling Park residents took advantage of the several opportunities in December and January to obtain your 2003 Guest Parking Permits. 2002 Guest Permits will NOT be honored starting February 1st, and vehicles failing to display the 2003 permits will be subject to citation. To obtain your guest permits, please call the Police Department, 997-8321, between the hours of 8 am and midnight.

I wish to advise everyone of a new law that took effect on January 1, 2003. The mandatory helmet law for all bicyclists under 18 has been extended to scooters, roller blades and skateboards. On a similar note, may I remind everyone of California Vehicle Code restrictions regarding the operation of "motorized scooters." Although scooter operators do not need a driver's license, prominent rules include: the operator must be 16 years or older; must wear a state-approved bicycle helmet; must operate to the far right of the roadway, or in a bicycle lane; cannot operate on the sidewalk; and, NO PASSENGERS are allowed. For everyone's safety, please comply with these regulations. If you see any motorized scooter being operated illegally or unsafely, promptly call your police department.

Remember, if you wish to report anonymously ongoing problems or suspects in already reported crimes, leave a message on the **TIP Line/ 997-8337**.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you by: telephone (997-8321); fax (997-8330); e-mail (bruce.tognetti@colma.ca.gov); or just drop in.

Thank you for working with YOUR Police Department to keep Colma safe!

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**SPECIAL  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, February 11, 2003, 7:30 pm**

**Agenda Highlights:**

- Proposed 2003 Holiday Events Program.
- Selection of consultants for issuance of the Certificates of Participation.
- Agreement establishing the Colma Fire District Joint Powers Authority.
- Work Plan for Mission Road Specific Plan.



**WELCOME PACKETS FOR  
NEW COLMA RESIDENTS**

If you are a new Colma resident, please stop by the Town Hall for a Welcome-To-Colma packet. It contains information about our City services that, we believe, you will find useful.

**NEW COLMA IDS  
COMING SOON!**



Watch for a mailing regarding how to obtain your new Colma Resident ID cards. The notice will include details for proof of residency and when to call the Town Hall for an appointment. See you soon!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE  
COLMA EVENTS**

- Feb. 5: Colma Social Club  
Feb. 11: Special City Council Meeting  
Feb. 12: Holiday - Lincoln's Birthday  
Town Hall and Sterling Park Community Center - CLOSED  
Feb. 17: Holiday - Presidents' Day  
Town Hall and Sterling Park Community Center - CLOSED  
Feb. 19: Senior Luncheon  
Feb. 22: Family Event - Disney on Ice—Toy Story  
San Francisco, Cow Palace  
Mar. 17: Senior Outing—Charles Schultz Museum

**MINOR HOUSING REPAIR GRANT**

**ATTENTION: HOME OWNERS**

The Colma Housing Repair Grant Program is in full-swing. Please stop by or call the Town Hall for an application. There is a December 31, 2003, deadline to have the work completed, so please submit your application soon. The application will be determined complete within 14 days if the Housing Coordinator concludes it meets the criteria for eligible households properties. If the work described requires a building permit, the application will be referred to the Building Official.

The homeowner, or the homeowner's contractor, is responsible for obtaining the required building permits. No fee is required for residential building permits in Colma. The Building Official will inspect all work that requires a Building Permit.

Payments will be made directly to the contractor, or, if a contractor is not used, to the homeowner after verification by the Housing Coordinator that the work has been completed and that a Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. The applicant is responsible for all costs and expenses over and above the grant awarded by the town.

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATES**

**"HILLSIDE CULTURAL PARK & COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT"**

- The Contractor continues to work on the interior of the existing building at 1500 Hillside. All interior work is expected to be completed sometime in August, and the train buildings in October, provided there are no more unexpected delays.
- The new storm drain pump work is completed as the Contractor continues on installing the site's new storm drainage system.

**"SAN MATEO COUNTY  
EL CAMINO REAL BOX CULVERT/FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT"**

- Reconstruction of the median curbs, landscaping, traffic signals, paving and striping continues, weather permitting. Some **traffic delays on El Camino Real should be expected.**
- Drivers may report any construction related traffic concerns by calling: 1) San Mateo County Public Works Department, 650/363-4100, or 2) the Town or Colma's Public Works Department, 650/757-8888.

**"LAWNDALE BOULEVARD"**

- The streetlights for the new roadway are being installed along the center of the median islands
- Work continues on the retaining walls along the southern portion of the roadway.
- The new signalized intersection at Hillside Boulevard, with the new roadway will be constructed. Electrical work for the new signal is currently being installed.
- Completion is expected in early March, weather permitting.

## NEW SCHEDULES FOR WINTER CLASSES

**Participants must register and pay for all classes by Thursday, February 6, 2002.** Register at Sterling Park Community Center during regular working hours, 9 am to 5 pm. If you have any questions regarding any of these classes, please contact Kurt Edwards, 991-3213. Thank you. **Remember: Monday, Feb. 17 is a National Holiday—Presidents' Day. No classes will be held that day!**

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### **"TAI CHI FOR BEGINNERS" (ADULTS) Tuesdays & Thursdays—10 to 11 am February 13 to March 18, Sterling Park**

Tai Chi is a series of slow movements that increase strength and balance through low impact exercises. This slow relaxing form of exercise is excellent for all ages in stress control and the development of physical and mental awareness.

**(Actual Fee: \$80/person.)** Colma Participation Fee:  
**\$16/adult; \$8/senior and disabled.**

### **"YOGA & MORNING STRETCH" — ADULTS & SENIORS Monday and Wednesday 9:30 to 11:00 am February 19 to March 24, Sterling Park**

Want to start your day relaxed and energized? The instructor will teach you how to control your breathing and prepare your mind for the day ahead. Yoga is a wonderful form of exercise that improves flexibility, muscle tone and revitalizes the body.

**(Actual Cost: \$100/person.)** Colma Participation Fee:  
**\$18/adults; \$9/senior and disabled.**

### **"EVENING STRETCH — ADULTS & SENIORS" Wednesday Evenings, 6:30—7:30 pm February 19 to April 23, Sterling Park**

End your day in a form of exercise that improves flexibility, muscle tone and revitalizes the body.

**Actual Cost: \$60/person.)** Colma Participation Fee:  
**\$12/adults; \$6/senior and disabled.**

### **"MARTIAL ARTS" — TEENS AND ADULTS Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:00 pm February 13 to March 18, Sterling Park**

Students learn techniques to defend themselves in a variety of situations. The class will be comprised of warm-ups, stretching, mat work, cardiovascular activity to enhance motor skills and self-defense.

**Actual Fee: \$60/person.)** Colma Participation Fee:  
**\$12/adults; \$6/teens.**

## ADULT DANCE CLASSES



February 6th.

Dancing is not only great fun, but a wonderful way to get and stay in physical shape. Try our new intermediate tango and salsa classes, or start with a beginning salsa class. **To ensure we have a sufficient number of residents for these dance classes, please register and pay before Thursday,**

### **NEW CLASS — "BEGINNING SALSA" 4 CLASSES MONDAY, 6 PM Sterling Park February 10 to March 3**

**(Actual Fee: \$20/person.)** Colma Participation Fee:  
**\$4/adult; \$2/senior, disabled, and youth.**

### **"INTERMEDIATE TANGO" — 4 CLASSES Mondays, 7 to 8 pm Sterling Park February 10 to March 3**

**(Actual Fee: \$20/person.)** Colma Participation Fee:  
**\$4/adult; \$2/senior, disabled, and youth.**

### **"INTERMEDIATE SALSA" - 4 CLASSES Mondays, 8 to 9 pm Sterling Park February 10 to March 3**

**(Actual Fee: \$20/person.)** Colma Participation Fee:  
**\$4 adult; \$2/senior, disabled, and youth.**

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### **\*\*FREE CLASS\*\***

### **"CHILDREN'S SAFETY AWARENESS" Self Defense for Girls (8 to 13 years) Thursdays, 4 to 5 pm Sterling Park February 13 to March 6**

This **free** four-week series addresses assertiveness, body language, the power of the voice, and physical self-defense techniques in a fun environment. Students will be working out on exercise mats and, therefore, should wear comfortable clothes that allow freedom of movement.

**(Actual Fee: \$80/person.)**  
Colma Participation Fee: **NONE**



**FAMILY EVENT  
—TOY STORY 2—  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22  
SAN FRANCISCO, COW PALACE, 3:30 pm**

You and your family will have a blast at this spectacular production bursting with special effects. It's thrills-and-chills time as Woody, Buzz, Jessie, and all of Andy's toys take to the ice, coming face to face with rockets, airplanes, and a show-stopping traffic jam. So round up the family and join us for the most exciting icy adventure in the solar system!

**Tickets go on sale at Sterling Park Community Center on Thursday, February 6, 4:45 to 6:30 pm.**

To purchase tickets, Colma residents **must** present a valid Colma ID, a recent bank statement, utility bill, and, if they are renters, a rental/lease agreement. Tickets will not be issued unless a resident provides proof of **Colma residency**. Tickets are limited; first come, first served.

**Actual Fee: \$17/person.) Colma Participation Fee: \$2/adults; \$1/youth, senior and disabled.**

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### SUMMER CAMP

If you haven't signed up your children for this year's summer camps, please call Kurt Edwards, 991-3213, for camp availabilities (Kennolyn, Thunderbird Ranch and Mateo Day-Camp.) This program is for Colma youth, ages 5 to 14 years. For teenagers, 12 to 17 years, we have an exciting week of white water rafting.

Residents must present at least two of the following forms of identification when registering their child/children for a camp:

- Valid Colma ID
- Utility bill—not less than past 2 months
- Bank statement
- Rental agreement
- Property tax form

Children must have a valid Colma ID card and school registration form that lists their current address or school report card.

### TICKET SALES & UNUSED TICKET POLICY

Tickets for all Colma-sponsored events may **only** be purchased beginning on the sign-up date indicated for that event. **No** advanced ticket sales are permitted.

The Guidelines for Recreation Program adopted 12/18/00, Section **2.01.074** "Unused Ticket Policy" state:

Section b) "If, after receiving a ticket or other notice of entitlement to attend a Colma Sponsored Event, a ticket-holder discovers that he or she cannot attend an event, then he or she must contact staff at City Hall and return the ticket or notice as soon as possible."

Subsection ii) "If a ticket-holder becomes unable to attend and if the ticket is not used by another resident or eligible person, then the ticket will be considered as "unused" and the ticket-holder must pay the Town for the **full cost** of the ticket..."

(On a weekend, the waiting list with phone numbers is available at Sterling Park Community Center, when open, and at the Police Dept., to help you find replacements. Waiting list participants should be aware their phone numbers may be given out to other residents for contact.)

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### BFI RECYCLE DAYS

**Fridays - February 7 and 21  
Extra Can Day - February 28**



## PAGES FROM THE PAST

Phinaes Cage  
(1823-1860)

### AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY!

Pineas Gage is probably the most famous patient to have survived severe damage to the brain. He is also the first patient from whom we learned something about the relation between personality and the front parts of the brain.

Gage was a foreman for the Rutland and Burlington Railroad when, in 1848, he suffered a horrific accident. He was using explosives to clear boulders from the path of a new railway line, when a charge detonated, sending an iron rod through his left eye socket and the frontal lobes of his brain, then out through the top of his skull. Pineas was knocked over, but may not have lost consciousness even though most of the front part of the left side of his brain was destroyed. He was treated by a physician, and returned home within 10 weeks. Two months later, while still enduring headaches, he felt strong enough to return to work. But because his personality had changed, the contractors would not hire him again. Before the accident, Pineas was a capable and efficient foreman, one with a well-balanced mind, who was looked on as a shrewd, smart businessman. He changed into a fitful, irreverent, and grossly profane individual. He was impatient and obstinate, yet capricious and vacillating, unable to settle on any of the plans he devised for future actions.

Because of the irreparable damage done to Gage's brain, he was unable to find a niche in the world. He finally earned a living by exhibiting himself as a "medical curiosity" in the P. T. Barnum Circus. In 1860, after his health began to fail again, he moved to San Francisco to live with his mother. He began to have epileptic seizures and died a natural death on May 21, 1860. He was buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery along with the tamping iron that he always carried with him. Five years later, at the request of physicians at Harvard University, his body was exhumed. With the approval of his family, Gage's head was removed and, along with the tamping iron, sent to Harvard, where, after study, both were placed in the Warren Medical Museum, where they remain today.

In 1940, following the closure of Laurel Hill Cemetery, Gage's body, sans head, was transferred to Cypress Lawn for reburial.

## **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2003 "WOMEN ON WRITING"**

A one-day conference is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, 8:15 am to 6:00 pm at Skyline College, 3300 College Drive, San Bruno. This conference is designed for people who love to write and who love to read literature by and about women.

Stop by Town Hall or Sterling Park Community Center to pick up a flier on this exciting workshop and presentation. For more information, please contact Skyline College, 650/738-4324.

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### **SENIOR AND ADULT LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 11:30 AM**

Please register at Sterling Park Community Center **before Friday, February 14**, to make your reservation for lunch. Cost: under the age of 55 years (\$4.00); seniors (\$2.00.)

### **UP-COMING ADULT/SENIOR OUTINGS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 WEDNESDAY, MAY 28**

Mark your calendars for **March 17**, for a trip to the Charles Schultz Museum in Santa Rosa. We'll stop by Clo's Parkside BBQ and Grill for a nice luncheon. Look for details in the March issue of *LiveWire*.

And, save Wednesday, **April 16**, for an enjoyable lunch at Senior Day at Bay Meadows!

On Wednesday, **May 28**, we'll travel over to Oakland to the Dunsmuir House for a tour and lunch.

### **SAVE THE DATES!!!**

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### **CORRECTION TO JANUARY LIVEWIRE**

The "Pages of the Past" Valerio Fontana article was submitted by the Fontana Family. Our apologies to the family for this error.

# **POLICE LOG — Dec. 17, 2002 to Jan. 22, 2003**

# FEBRUARY 2003

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			ALL CLASSES ARE HELD IN STERLING PARK UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.			1 Rec Ctr Closed Private Party
2 Rec Ctr Closed Private Party	3 <i>Yoga Stretching</i> 9:30 am Beginning Salsa 6 pm Tango Class 7 pm Salsa Class 8 pm	4 Tai Chi, 10 to 11 am  <i>Martial Arts</i> 6:30—8:00 pm	5 <i>Yoga Stretching</i> 9:30 am Colma Social Club Sterling Park, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm	6 Tai Chi, 10 to 11 am  <i>Martial Arts</i> 6:30—8:00 pm	7 <b>BFI Recycle Day</b>	8 Rec Ctr Closed Private Party
9 Rec Ctr Closed Private Party	10 <i>Yoga Stretching</i> 9:30 am Beginning Salsa 6 pm Tango Class 7 pm Salsa Class 8 pm	11 Tai Chi, 10 to 11 am  <i>Martial Arts</i> 6:30—8:00 pm Special City Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm	12 <b>LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY Town Hall &amp; Sterling Park Community Ctr. CLOSED</b>	13 Tai Chi, 10 to 11 am  <i>Martial Arts</i> 6:30—8:00 pm Children's Safety Class, 4—5 pm	14	15 Rec Ctr Closed Private Party
16 Rec Ctr Closed Private Party	17 <b>HOLIDAY PRESIDENTS' DAY Town Hall &amp; Sterling Park Community Ctr. CLOSED</b>	18 Tai Chi, 10 to 11 am  <i>Martial Arts</i> 6:30—8:00 pm	19 <i>Yoga Stretching</i> 9:30 am Senior Luncheon Sterling Park 11:30 pm  <i>Evening Stretch,</i> 6:30 pm	20 Tai Chi, 10 to 11 am  <i>Martial Arts</i> 6:30—8:00 pm Children's Safety Class, 4—5 pm	21 <b>BFI Recycle Day</b>	22 Rec Ctr Closed Private Party  Family Event Disney on Ice Toy Story Cow Palace, 3:30 pm
23 Rec Ctr Closed Private Party	24 <i>Yoga Stretching</i> 9:30 am Beginning Salsa 6 pm Tango Class 7 pm Salsa Class 8 pm	25 Tai Chi, 10 to 11 am  <i>Martial Arts</i> 6:30—8:00 pm	26 <i>Yoga Stretching</i> 9:30 am Evening Stretch, 6:30 pm	27 Tai Chi, 10 to 11 am  <i>Martial Arts</i> 6:30—8:00 pm Children's Safety Class 4—5 pm	28 <b>BFI Extra Can Day</b>	

## The Sterling Park Community Center's February Schedule is:

Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm; closed Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays as noted. Outside areas, including the basketball court, playground, and outdoor rest rooms are available Sundays from dawn to dusk.

For information, call 650/991-3213.

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1198 El Camino Real  
Colma, CA 94014-3212  
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TO:

# Town of Colma Telephone Numbers

**Town Hall**.....(650)997-8300

**Elected Officials:**

Mayor ..... Frossanna Vallergera ..... 8314  
Mayor Pro Tem..... Ronald Maldonado ..... 8318  
Council Member ..... Philip J. Lum, Jr. .... 8315  
Council Member ..... Helen Fiscaro..... 8304  
Council Member ..... Joe Silva.....8316

City Treasurer ..... Rae P. Gonzalez..... 8305

**Town Hall Staff:**

City Manager ..... Herb Moniz .....8310  
Assistant City Manager..... Diane McGrath.....8309 Chief  
of Police ..... Bruce Tognetti.....8321  
Administrative Tech II..... Anita Landis Thorsnes ..... 8307  
Administrative Tech II..... Joan E. Guerra.....8311  
Accountant..... Perla Denina.....8317  
Accountant..... Jeanne O'Brien.....8313

**Public Works & General Maintenance:**

Maintenance Technician ..... Willie Merritt.....757-8888  
Maintenance Technician..... Louis Gotelli.....757-8888

**Other City Officials:**

City Attorney ..... Roger Peters.....997-8300  
City Engineer ..... Rick Mao .....757-8888  
City Planner..... Mac Carpenter ..... 985-2590  
Public Works Maint. Supervisor...Phil Scramaglia.....757-8888

**Sterling Park Community Center**

Recreation Services Mgr. Kurt Edwards.....991-3213

**Police**

Police Log ..... Bobbi Fugate .....997-8321  
TIP Line .....997-8337

**Town Hall Business Hours:**

**8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday**



